

Message

From: Ariel Wittenberg [awittenberg@eenews.net]
Sent: 12/10/2021 5:39:31 PM
To: Milbourn, Cathy [Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
CC: E.A. Crunden [ecrunden@eenews.net]
Subject: RE: Laura Green--E&E News

Hi Cathy,

Just wanted to check if you all are able to confirm this for us. Our story is running in our Greenwire edition and is already with our editors.

Ariel

From: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 10:02 AM
To: Ariel Wittenberg <awittenberg@eenews.net>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: Ev Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>
Subject: RE: Laura Green--E&E News

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hello Ariel,

Yes, I did see your email. And, noting your deadline.

Cathy

From: Ariel Wittenberg <awittenberg@eenews.net>
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 9:48 AM
To: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>; E.A. Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>
Subject: RE: Laura Green--E&E News

Hi All,

Just wanted to followup with you on this and make sure you saw this email from yesterday evening as we are on deadline for Greenwire today.

Ariel

From: Ariel Wittenberg
Sent: Thursday, December 9, 2021 7:35 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>; Ev Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>
Subject: Laura Green--E&E News

Hi All,

It's Ariel and Ev, writing about PFAS again. Hope you are doing well, and sorry for the evening email. Wanted to give you a head start on this.

Laura Green, the SGE we asked about last week, has told local press on Nantucket that she has resigned from her SGE position with EPA. We were hoping you could confirm that with us. We are writing a followup story for tomorrow's Greenwire edition. Our deadline is 11 a.m.

Thanks so much,

Ariel

Ariel Wittenberg

Reporter, E&E News (She/Her)

Awittenberg@eenews.net

202-737-4557

Message

From: Ev Crunden [ecrunden@eenews.net]
Sent: 12/17/2021 2:16:00 PM
To: Milbourn, Cathy [Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
CC: EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]; awittenberg@eenews.net
Subject: Re: Laura Green E&E News

Hi Cathy,

Just wanted to loop back. We're working on another story noting that Nantucket Public Schools has ended its relationship with Laura Green following a lot of uproar over her PFAS comments. Is EPA able to share any more information about the status of her role with the agency and why EPA staffers were asking her to stay on, per email exchanges?

Thanks so much for any clarity -- our deadline is 11:30 a.m.

Best,
Ev

From: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 5:01 PM
To: Ev Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Ariel Wittenberg <awittenberg@eenews.net>
Subject: Laura Green E&E News

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hello Ev,

On background:

We can't comment on personnel matters, however, we will let you know if we have information to share.

Regards,

Cathy

From: Ev Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 3:02 PM
To: Daguiard, Robert <Daguiard.Robert@epa.gov>; awittenberg@eenews.net
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Laura Green--E&E News

Hi all,

We are now working on another follow up piece based on [this article](#). For accuracy, we'd really like to be able to tell readers something conclusive. Did EPA ask Laura Green to reconsider her resignation? Has she officially un-resigned? She is saying the EPA asked her to reconsider.

Our deadline is ASAP, within the next 30 minutes.

Thanks,
Ev

Message

From: Milbourn, Cathy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=235D8027F05546DBA9897972F0B78419-CMILBOUR]
Sent: 12/7/2021 8:31:34 PM
To: Ariel Wittenberg [awittenberg@eenews.net]; E.A. Crunden [ecrunden@eenews.net]
CC: EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: E&E News Inquiry

Hi Ariel and Ev,

Here's our response on background:

SGE appointments are typically 3-year, intermittent appointments. The programs/advisory boards decide to extend or terminate at the 3-year mark based on their approval. The official definition of a special government employee can be found here: [https://www.oge.gov/Web/278eGuide.nsf/Content/Definitions~Special+Government+Employee+\(SGE\)](https://www.oge.gov/Web/278eGuide.nsf/Content/Definitions~Special+Government+Employee+(SGE))

From: Ariel Wittenberg <awittenberg@eenews.net>
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 5:06 PM
To: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>; E.A. Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: E&E News Inquiry

Thanks, Cathyy, appreciate it. And yes, first thing Monday is perfect.

From: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 5:03 PM
To: Ariel Wittenberg <awittenberg@eenews.net>; Ev Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: E&E News Inquiry

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Ariel and Ev,

Dr. Green is currently an SGE, but not involved in any projects at this time. SGE work is by request, and they are paid only when they perform work for the agency. Because we are getting into the late hours today, we can follow up with additional information about SGE protocols first thing Monday, if that would be helpful.

Regards,

Cathy

From: Ariel Wittenberg <awittenberg@eenews.net>
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>; E.A. Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: E&E News Inquiry

Hi Cathy,

We're still confused. Can you tell us:

1. What Dr. Green's current duties as an SGE are?
2. How does someone stop being an SGE? Once they become an SGE are they always considered one? Are there terms? Or is there a process that one-ups and/or ends the title?

Thanks,

Ariel

From: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 3:32 PM

To: Ariel Wittenberg <awittenberg@eenews.net>; Ev Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>

Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: E&E News Inquiry

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Ariel and Ev—

Here's the explanation—I hope this is helpful.

Cathy

Dr. Green is still an SGE but has not served on an OCSPP committee since 2020. The end of the last meeting was Feb. 2020 but the report from the committee didn't come out until May 2020.

From: Ariel Wittenberg <awittenberg@eenews.net>

Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 11:50 AM

To: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>; E.A. Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>

Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: E&E News Inquiry

Hi Cathy,

Thanks so much for this. We are just confused about the dates here (And are happy to hop on the phone to get this clarified).

I see your response says that Dr. Green has not conducted work for any of OCSPP's FACA Committees since 2020, but then on background it says that she **is** an SGE for 2016 **to present** for OCSPP. As we put in our initial email, the latest record we have of her being an SGE is from March 2020, so we just want to make sure we have the timeline right here.

Thanks again,

Ariel & Ev

From: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 11:43 AM

To: Ariel Wittenberg <awittenberg@eenews.net>; Ev Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>

Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: E&E News Inquiry

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hello Ariel and Ev,

Here is our response on background.

Regards,

Cathy

Response: EPA considers harmful PFAS to be an urgent public health threat facing communities across the United States. The agency does not support or agree with any of the statements attributed to Ms. Green that you cited in your questions. Under Administrator Regan leadership, EPA has set forth a PFAS Strategic Roadmap that outlines a comprehensive approach to addressing PFAS, and sets timelines by which EPA plans to take specific actions and set bold policies to safeguard public health, protect the environment, and hold polluters accountable.

Dr. Green was not conducting work for OCSPP Federal Advisory Committees (FACA) when the referenced statements on PFAS were made, has not conducted work for any of OCSPP's FACA committees since 2020, and has not ever conducted work for OCSPP FACA committees that relates to PFAS.

On background: Dr. Laura Green is a Special Government Employee (SGE) for EPA/OCSPP from 2016 to present. Dr. Green has assisted with peer reviews conducted by two OCSPP Federal Advisory Committees, the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP). SGEs generally assist EPA Federal Advisory Committees with their reviews and are appointed to provide the Agency with their own best independent judgment based on their individual expertise. An SGE has expertise in a particular field and serves the agency solely in an advisory capacity but does not actually perform or supervise agency operations. For additional background on the responsibilities of SGEs, please see https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-04/documents/2020_updated_faca_essentials_guide.pdf.

From: Ariel Wittenberg <awittenberg@eenews.net>

Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 2:08 PM

To: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>

Cc: E.A. Crunden <ecrunden@eenews.net>

Subject: E&E News Inquiry

Hi Everyone,

Hope you had wonderful Thanksgivings!

Ev and I are getting in touch because we are working on an article about a toxicologist, Laura C. Green, who has been consulting with supporters of synthetic turf athletic fields. On her resume, she claims to currently be a Special Government Employee at EPA (since 2016). She has also said multiple times at municipal public meetings in New England that she is a current part-time employee of EPA (including as recently as September 21, 2021). E&E News

routinely FOIA's for EPA's list of SGEs. In reviewing those records, the most recent record we have found listing Laura C. Green as an SGE is from March 2020.

We are planning to run an article about this early next week and were hoping you could confirm whether Ms. Green is a current EPA employee and, if so, in what capacity? We are also hoping you can confirm whether she was a special government employee for EPA from 2016 to March 2020.

Additionally, Laura Green has made multiple public statements, in written comments to agencies, in emails to concerned citizens, and verbally at public meetings, about the health effects of PFAS that are at-odds with EPA toxicity assessments and other documents the agency has put out recently. Such statements, among others, include:

- "Actually, there's no reliable evidence that PFAS harms human health."
- "Interestingly, the men and women, mostly men, who manufactured PFAs either at DuPont down in West Virginia or at 3M in Minnesota, and there is a big plant in Alabama as well, those workers seem to be fine. There doesn't seem to be any evidence that workers who are up to their eyeballs in this stuff are actually harmed by it."
- "PFOA is remarkably nontoxic to nonhuman primates."

We are wondering if you have any comments on these statements, and if you believe they reflect the official position of EPA on PFAS and PFOA?

Our deadline is COB Friday. We are happy to hop on the phone to chat more about this if need-be.

Thanks,

Ariel & Ev

Ariel Wittenberg

Reporter, E&E News (She/Her)

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